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Sent: Tuesday, December 06, 2005 12:05 PM  
To: MLPACComments@resources.ca.gov  
Cc: mlpa@livingseaimages.com; jwolfe@igc.org; YScuba@californiadivers.com  
Subject: MLPACComments: MLPA draft packages

Dear MLPA staff,

Thank you for your hard work in the MLPA implementation program. You can rest assured I know that you have worked extraordinarily hard in the past years, and I truly appreciate it.

I would like to voice my tentative support for Package #2, and express two concerns I have regarding its design.

Having been born and raised in Monterey, and coming from a family who were involved with Ed Ricketts in his life and work, including the writing and illustration of "Between Pacific Tides," I have an intense interest in the outcome of the reserve named in his honor, and have had a life long concern for the well being of the health of our coastal waters. I spent my childhood years exploring tide pools at every opportunity, my school time studying it, have dived over 3000 hours under these waters, donated my time and equipment to the State of California as a volunteer at Pt Lobos Marine Reserve for 12 years and have attended many meetings throughout this process in support of an intelligent approach to managing our unique marine environment.

Ed Ricketts life's work was to seek understanding of the interconnectedness of all life and to educate the lay person about it. His work in marine science was the first to suggest its existence as an ecosystem and not a random mélange of life. In a very real sense, he is the father of the science of marine ecology. His book, "Between Pacific Tides," is evidence of his desire to educate the layperson about very essence of life and creation through knowledge of the sea. An underwater park/reserve that furthers the biodiversity of his back yard and allopps access to it for the education of the public he so strongly believed in would be an extraordinary tribute to a great scientist and philosopher. The creation of a superficial, "paper park," a compromise between the point of his life's work and the same forces of commercialism that ignored his pleas in the 1930's for sound scientific marine management and exploits his name today for tourism profit is not a just tribute to him.

Ricketts Marine Reserve should be a full reserve from the Breakwater to Lovers Point.

My second concern is for Pt Lobos reserve. As a volunteer there for 12 years, and after 26 years diving there, I know the underwater region intimately. There are several spectacular pinnacles that fall just outside the proposed North boundary. Additionally, as a volunteer in resource protection for the Park, I often observed sport boats with their hulls right on the boundary, with fishermen casting their lines well into the narrow reserve on the North boundary. I am concerned about the health of the rock fishery, and Pt Lobos' unique role as a nucleus for its recovery. For that reason, I would like to see the North boundary extended to N36 32.0. I have met several times on the water with the commercial spot prawn fishers, and am confident they understand the importance of sound fishery management. I am not concerned they have a negative impact, and do not wish to restrain their honest attempts to make a living using sustainable methods. Therefore, I support the extended northern line as an SMCA which will allow them to set their traps in their traditional locations while protecting the breeding age rockfish

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to voice my concerns,

Patrick Lovejoy